

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34086 200611Z  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH  
SUBJECT: THANAT KHOMAN CAUTIONS GOVERNMENT

SUMMARY: IN THE DECEMBER 17 EDITION OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER, HSIAN HSIAN JIT PAO, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN, WAS REPORTED AS CAUTIONING THE GOVERNMENT THAT SOME OF ITS ACTIONS WERE BEING VIEWED ABROAD AS REMINISCENT OF NAZI TACTICS. HE SPECIFIED THE PRISON CAMPS FOR THOSE DETAINED UNDER NARC ORDER NO. 22, BOOK BURNINGS, AND THE DISMISSAL OF UNDERSECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ANAN PHANYARACHUN. BELOW IS THE USIS TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE.

1. THANAT REMINDS GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SOME OF ITS MEASURES FROM BEING VIEWED AS NAZI PRACTICES.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSEMBLY REMINDS THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHOULD IMPROVE ITS REPUTATION.

2. DR. THANAT TOLD NEWSMEN AT HIS HOME YESTERDAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN PART HAS BEEN CARELESS AND ILL-CONSIDERED AND MAY DAMAGE THAILAND'S REPUTATION. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY SUGGESTED WHEN HE WAS ADVISER TO THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL THAT IN THE EYES OF FOREIGNERS, THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS SET UP FOR ELEMENTS DANGEROUS TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 34086 200611Z

SOCIETY IS A PRACTICE SIMILAR TO WHAT WAS DONE DURING THE NAZI ERA. BUT, IN FACT, OUR PRISON CAMPS ARE DIFFERENT FROM NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS. HE ADDED THAT THESE MEASURES MAY MISLEAD FOREIGNERS IF WE FAIL TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL AND TRY TO ENLARGE THE MEASURE (SIC) TO THE UTMOST EXTENT.

3. DR. THANAT ALSO SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOVERNMENT'S BOOK BURNINGS WERE NOTED BY FOREIGNERS AS AN ECHO OF THE NAZI ERA, BUT THEY REALLY ARE NOT AT ALL SIMILAR TO THE NAZIS' ACTIONS BUT ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. BUT BECAUSE OF GOVERNMENT OVER-EMPHASIS ON SUCH MEASURES, FOREIGNERS HAVE BEEN MISLED, HE ADDED.

4. DR. THANAT POINTED OUT THAT TO THROW OUT A PUBLIC FIGURE WHO IS REGARDED BY FOREIGNERS AS HONEST WILL ALSO DAMAGE THE REPUTATION OF THAILAND, BECAUSE THE COUNTRY MAY THEN BE VIEWED IN BAD LIGHT. ALTHOUGH DR. THANAT DID NOT MENTION THE NAME OF THE PUBLIC FIGURE IN QUESTION, REPORTERS BELIEVE HE WAS SPEAKING OF FORMER UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANAND. WHITEHOUSE

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